

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
JUDICIAL MERIT SYSTEM)	No. 98-034
COMMISSION FOR THE JUDICIAL)	
BRANCH)	
_____)	

On May 6, 1998, the judges of Superior Court of Arizona, in and for Maricopa County, adopted a revised Judicial Merit System Resolution and Rules for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, effective July 1, 1998.

Historically, the judicial branch has received human resources services from the Maricopa County Human Resources Department, although the Court is not required to do so. While this arrangement has had the anticipated benefit of preventing a duplication of services and provided certain economies of scale, it has caused considerable confusion regarding the status of Superior Court employees as A county= employees. Since the inception of this arrangement, the size and structure of both the Court and the County has changed dramatically.

Supreme Court Administrative Order 96-32, which adopts Administrative Rule V-A, III (c), provides the Superior Court Presiding Judge, as Chief Judicial Executive Officer of the court system in each respective county, with the authority to develop and implement a judicial branch human resources system in the courts, within their county.

Therefore, the Court has determined that a separate Judicial Merit System Commission is essential to eliminate confusion and liability; to document roles, responsibilities, and liability; and to represent the public interest in the conduct of personnel administration in the court service.

Effective July 1, 1998, the Court orders the establishment of the Judicial Merit System Commission.

The Commission shall consist of up to five members appointed by the Presiding Judge. The Judicial Merit System Resolution and Rules shall govern the procedures of the Judicial Merit System Commission. It shall have authority within the classified service concerning examination, eligibility, classification, appointment, complaints, appeals, and related matters as established in the Judicial Merit System Rules. Additionally, it shall advise the Presiding Judge, judges, and Court Human Resources Director concerning pay, benefits, other personnel matters for both the classified and unclassified service. The Commission shall have other powers and duties as enumerated within the Judicial Merit System Resolution and Rules. The Court may establish policy, as deemed necessary, to address the practices of the Commission.

DATED this 30th day of June, 1998

ROBERT D. MYERS, PRESIDING JUDGE

Original: Clerk of the Court

Copies: Gordon M. Griller, Court Administrator
Richard Pagoria, Director, Superior Court Human Resources Dept.